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BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

ANNUAL REPORT

-- OF THE --

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER,

1 9 5 1.

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A. W. HANSELL, M.B., B.S.

Medical Officer of Health.

BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

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BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

North Riding of Yorkshire

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for

the year ending 31st December,

1 9 5 1.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedale Rural District Council,

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

(1) One Medical Officer of Health (part time)
(2) One Surveyor/Sanitary Inspector (full time)
(3) One Waterworks Manager (full time)

STATISTICS.

Area	43,302 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1951)	7,986.
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books (end of 1951)	1,966.
Rateable Value of the Area	£37,450.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate...	£154. 4. 3½d.
Number of New Houses completed during 1951	49.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Legitimate	59	47	106)	Birth Rate
Illegitimate	2	4	6)	14.0
	61	51	112	

Stillbirths.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Legitimate	3	0	3)	Rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	0	0	0)	(Live and still)
				births - 26.0
	3	0	3	

Deaths.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
	62	38	100	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 12.5

Deaths from Maternal Causes .... Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	44.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	37.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	166.6

The Mortality from various illnesses has been about normal and calls for no special comment.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory facilities.
(b) Ambulance Services.
(c) Clinics and Treatment Centres.
(d) Hospitals.
(e) Nursing Services.

The above services continue to be satisfactory and are adequate for the Area.

There has been less difficulty during the year in obtaining Hospital and Institutional accommodation for the aged, sick and infirm.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

W A T E R.

(1) QUALITY.

The water supply over the whole area has been very satisfactory. Eleven samples have been taken from taps etc., supplied from the Council's mains and these were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for analysis and in all cases proved satisfactory.

(2) QUANTITY.

During the year the water level in the well at Bellerby was very consistent and at no time seriously effected.

(3) CONSUMPTION.

Approximate daily consumption - 370,000 gallons.

Made up as follows:-

Domestic	159,900
Trade	21,000
Military	76,000
Agricultural	53,100
Bulk Supplies	60,000

(4) CONNECTIONS.

During the year 96 connections have been taken from the Council's mains to supply farms and private houses in the Bedale Rural District.

(5) INSTALLATION OF A STEEL STORAGE TANK AT THORNTON WATLASS.

A 14,000 gallons sectional steel storage tank has been installed and brought into operation at Thornton Watlass. This storage tank will help to overcome the shortage in the supply to the higher elevated parts of the District.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No major alterations have been made to the sewers or sewage disposal works during the year and no new schemes have been commenced. It was hoped that the Carthorpe Scheme might have been started but owing to difficulty in obtaining firm tenders this has not been possible, and it is now necessary to obtain a new starting date from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

A small improvement has been made at the Bedale Sewage Disposal Works where additional tanks were brought into use and suitable screen barriers installed. This work has undoubtedly resulted in a smaller proportion of sewage solids reaching Bedale Beck but the tank effluent is still quite unsatisfactory and plans for entirely new Disposal Works

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

have been approved by the Council and are now being completed for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government along with the proposed Aiskew Sewerage Scheme.

The Council have also instructed their Consulting Engineers to prepare a number of Sewerage Schemes to deal with various Parishes including Snape, Thornton Watlass, Burrill, Kirklington, Hackforth, Crakehall, and Langthorne. It seems likely, however, that it will be some years before the whole area is properly sewered and until that time arrives the existing arrangements have to be operated as efficiently as possible. In order to do this, the settling tanks and gutters must be regularly cleaned out and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find men to carry out this work. The situation became so acute towards the end of the year that the cleaning of tanks ceased altogether owing to shortage of staff and the Council were compelled to engage a Contractor to carry out the work. This arrangement is continuing and the tanks are being satisfactorily maintained.

The Rivers Pollution Prevention Act came into force during 1951 and the Yorkshire Ouse River Board now have an Inspector stationed at Northallerton. Under this Act, all new sewage outfalls to water-courses have to be reported to the River Board and approved by them. In addition, samples are regularly taken from existing outfalls and submitted for analysis, the reports are then forwarded to the Council.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The collection of refuse in the area continues to be carried out by the Council's own vehicles and the system works very satisfactorily with few complaints of neglect.

The conversion of privies to water closets continues slowly, 45 privies having been converted during the year. It does not appear likely that this rate of progress will be improved upon until adequate sewerage facilities are available and for this reason conversions cannot in many cases be encouraged.

Refuse is disposed of in two refuse tips, one at Bedale and one at Well. The tips are kept as tidy as possible and treated regularly to destroy rats.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council employ a part-time man for the destruction of rats and mice. This service is available to any type of premises and is provided free of charge to householders, business premises being charged on a time and materials basis.

HOUSING.

The erection of Council Houses has continued smoothly throughout the year. 29 houses have been completed and occupied and 6 houses were in course of erection at the year end. A total of 95 houses have been completed since 1946.

Private house building has proceeded, 5 houses have been completed during the year and three were in course of construction at the end of the year. Thirty-three private houses have now been completed since 1945. There are still a number of persons waiting for licences and as these become available they are allocated by the Council.

The hutted camp at West Tanfield has remained in use as temporary housing accommodation but many of the huts are showing signs of structural decay and as these become vacant, they are not re-occupied.

Early in the year, the Council were offered the wood buildings formerly occupied as a Women's Land Army Hostel at Leeming Bar for use as housing accommodation. This offer was accepted and the buildings were quickly converted into six self-contained bungalows. These are all occupied and have proved quite satisfactory.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Meat supplies for the area continue to be allocated from the Northallerton Slaughterhouse where inspections are made before delivery. Meat inspection at the Vale of Mowbray Bacon Factory is carried out whenever killing is in progress and approximately 320 visits have been made for this purpose. The factory has been considerably improved and modernised and 32,486 pigs were slaughtered during the year.

The statement showing meat condemned in relation to animals slaughtered is set out below in accordance with the requirements of Circular No. 2/50.

Twenty-one visits have been made to inspect food at retail food shops in the area. The foods involved are usually tinned goods which have become unsound owing to either faulty canning or defects in the cans, the quantity of food condemned, however, is very small.

MILK SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION.

The dairies and methods of supply are generally satisfactory. Much of the milk supplied in the area is now received ready bottled from the wholesale dairies and is simply delivered by the retailers, empty bottles being returned to the wholesaler for washing and sterilizing. The quantity of milk delivered from hand cans continues to decrease.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED,
1951.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)					32,486.
Number Inspected					32,486.
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned					35
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned					456
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis					1.51
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned					22.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned					1351.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis					4.22.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Deaths.
Pneuminia	11	Nil
Erysipelas	4	Nil
Scarlet Fever	18	Nil
Measles	61	Nil
Whooping Cough	55	Nil
Poliomyelitis	2	1
Food Poisoning	1	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil

The value of immunisation against diphtheria is once again shown by the absence of such a case in the above list. It is now five years since the occurrence of a case was notified in the District.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1951.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
Age Periods.	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	5	3	1	-	-	-	-	-

For the first time in twenty-five years it is satisfactory to be able to record no deaths from Tuberculosis.

The Tuberculosis Clinic which is held weekly at Mowbray Grange Sanatorium is of great help to the local practitioners who are able to have any doubtful chest cases examined without delay.

It is interesting to note the results obtained by the Leeds Mass Radiography Unit when it visited the Town in June, 1951. Volunteers from the general public were examined:-

Males - 121 Females - 156

Tuberculosis lesions discovered:-

Active - 2 Inactive - 2

Four persons were found to have a non-tuberculosis abnormality of the heart or lungs.

In concluding my Report, I should like to thank Mr. Jameson and Mr. Dunning for their ever ready help throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
ALAN W. HANSELL,
Medical Officer of Health.